

Digital Nation Summit Islamabad Agenda Main Stage

09:30 - 11:10	<p>A Vision for Digital Pakistan</p> <p>This session aims to outline and discuss the strategic roadmap for transforming Pakistan into a digitally empowered nation - underscoring the government's commitment to creating a robust digital infrastructure, enhancing cybersecurity measures, and promoting innovation across various sectors.</p> <p>This session will bring together key stakeholders from the government and industry to align their efforts towards realising the vision of a Digital Pakistan.</p>
09:30 – 09:35	<p>Recitation of the Holy Quran National Anthem</p>
09:35 – 09:45	<p>GSMA Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA Lara Dewar, Chief Marketing Officer, GSMA</p>
09:45 – 09:50	<p>Maj. Gen (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman, Chairman, PTA : The Chairman of PTA will present a keynote address on "Regulatory Support for Digital Growth," focusing on creating a conducive environment for digital innovation. The address will also cover how regulatory measures are being implemented to address challenges within the telecom sector, promoting sustainable digital development.</p> <p>Announcement of National Kick-off of Digital Gender Inclusion Strategy</p>
09:50 – 09:55	<p>H.E. Shaza Fatima, Minister, IT & Telecom: The Minister will deliver a keynote address on "Government Initiatives for Digital Transformation," highlighting current projects and the future roadmap. The address will focus on the government's support for the tech industry and startups, showcasing efforts to foster innovation and drive digital progress.</p> <p>Launch of Digital Pakistan Initiative with video played on the screen Chairman PTA presents the Gender Strategy to PM Group Photo</p>
09:55 – 10:10	<p>Inaugural Address</p> <p>H.E. Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan</p>

10:15 – 10:45	<p>Fire-side Chat: Empowering Digital Pakistan</p> <p>This session explores how the telecom sector plays a pivotal role in unlocking Pakistan’s digital vision. This discussion dives into how strategic partnerships and investments can fuel the country’s digital transformation.</p> <p>Moderator: Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aamir Ibrahim, CEO, Jazz • Khurram Ashfaq, CEO, Telenor • Li Li, Head of Technology, Zong • Zarrar Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL/Ufone
10:45 – 11:10	<p>Panel Discussion: Navigating Policy Reforms for a Digital Pakistan</p> <p>Moderator: Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy APAC, GSMA</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aisha Moriani, Secretary, MoITT • Zohaib Khan, Chairman, P@SHA • Rt Hon Sir Brandon Lewis, Member of the Board of Directors, VEON Group
11:10 – 11:15	<p>Note of Thanks</p> <p>Jamil Mayo, CEO, HNL</p>
<p>Coffee Break</p>	
11:30 - 12:45	<p>Building Resilience and Sustainable Networks: Shaping the Future of Communication</p> <p>In an era of rapid technological change and global challenges, resilient and sustainable networks are essential. This session will cover strategies and innovations for building networks that can endure disruptions and support sustainability goals. Experts will share best practices and case studies, highlighting the importance of robust infrastructures in shaping the future of communication. Join us to learn how to create a network that is adaptable, reliable, and future-ready.</p>
11:30 – 11:40	<p>The Foundation of Future Networks: Resilience and Sustainability at the Core</p> <p>Fatima Asad-Said, CEO, Abacus Consulting</p>

11:40 - 12:00	<p>From Vision to Reality: Building Resilient and Sustainable Network Infrastructures</p> <p>Fireside Chat:</p> <p>Moderator: Saira Faisal, Country Lead Digital Transformation, GSMA</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazim Mujtaba, President, Consumer Division, Jazz • Affandy Johan, Telecoms Industry Analyst, Ookla
12:00 – 12:45	<p>Accelerating Women’s Digital Inclusion in Pakistan</p> <p>Moderator: Eleanor Sarpong, Director of Policy and Advocacy Digital Inclusion, GSMA</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syeda Shafaq Karim, Director Wireless Licensing, PTA • Haaris Chaudhry, Interim CEO, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited • Asif Jafri, CEO, Kistpay • Kar Hung Antony Tam, Officer-In-charge, UNESCO Islamabad
Lunch Break	
13:30 - 15:00	Investing in Pakistan's Future: Key Reforms for a Thriving Economy
13:30 - 13:45	<p>The Role of Digital Government in Economic Growth</p> <p>Speaker: Mohammad J Sear, Digital Government & Public Sector MENA, Ernst & Young</p>
13:45 -14:00	<p>Tech for Impact: The New Era of Inclusion and Safety with AI and Digital Tools</p> <p>Speaker: Zara Basharat Higgs, Head Public Policy Programs and Partnerships, METAP and South Asia, TikTok</p>
14:00 -14:30	<p>Panel Discussion: Thriving in the Digital Age: Strategies for National Transformation</p> <p>This session explores how effective strategies can unlock Pakistan’s digital potential. Key focus areas include Optimising National Goals by aligning priorities with digital advancements. Driving Transformation to attract investment. Embracing Cutting-Edge Technologies such as AI, and Digital Public Infrastructure for national development.</p> <p>Moderator: Umar Nadeem, Partner, Tabadlab</p>

	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambreen Iftikhar, DG, Board of Investment • Habibullah Khan, CEO, Penumbra • Gulalai Khan, Strategic Advisor, LUMS and Adam Smith International
14:30 – 15:00	<p>Connecting the Future: Advancing Financial Inclusion in the Digital Economy This session explores the transformative power of digital and cashless economies. It aims to address the usage gap in financial services by promoting inclusivity and connectivity. Participants will talk about strategies for building a digitally and financially inclusive nation, highlighting innovations and policies that can empower all citizens to participate in the evolving digital economy.</p> <p>Fireside Chat:</p> <p>Moderator: Sabahat Bokhari, Founder, The Inclusion Lab</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ali Irfan, Chief Customer Experience Officer, JazzCash • Shoukat Bizinjo, Additional Director Digital Financial Services, State Bank of Pakistan • Maleeha Bangash, Consultant Digital Banking, IFC • Clive Chai, Head of Partnerships, South Asia, Meta
Tea Break	
15:15 - 16:30	<p>Nurturing Pakistan’s Vibrant Innovation Ecosystem</p> <p>This session will highlight the potential of Pakistan's innovation ecosystem, focusing on leveraging mobile technology to address sustainability challenges. It will cover key priorities for advancing mobile innovation and showcase impactful case studies, emphasizing the role of youth and innovative solutions in shaping a digital future for Pakistan.</p>
15:15 -15:30	<p>Innovation for a better future: GSMA Innovation Fund catalysing innovation for sustainability in Pakistan</p> <p>Speaker: Bilal Ali Qureshi, Director GSMA Innovation Fund</p>
15:30 -16:00	<p>Navigating fundraising in 2024 and future of startup ecosystem of Pakistan</p>

	<p>Moderator: Ausima Sultan Malik– HoD Department of Humanities and Sciences, Institute of Space Technology</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sara Khurram CEO Sehat Kahani • Atifa Asghar – Board Member - The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE) Islamabad • Merai Syed – Director – Invest to Innovate
<p>16:00 -16:30</p>	<p>Fireside chat to discuss different initiatives from the government and private sector to tackle challenges & barriers for harnessing the true potential of the start-up eco system of Pakistan</p> <p>Moderator: Sumera Abbasi – Executive Director – TIE Islamabad</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adeel Sheikh - CEO Ignite • Shumaila Razaqat, Director Innovation Investments, Karandaaz • Ali Ibrahim – VP Marketing and Communications - Hashoo group
<p>17:00 – 18:00</p>	<p>Diversity4Tech Networking Drinks</p>